

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 385

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of Health and Human Services should conduct or support research on certain tests to screen for ovarian cancer, and Federal health care programs and group and individual health plans should cover the tests if demonstrated to be effective, and for other purposes.

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Whereas ovarian cancer is a serious and underrecognized threat to women's health;

Whereas ovarian cancer, the deadliest of the gynecologic cancers, is the fourth leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States;

Whereas ovarian cancer occurs in 1 out of 57 women in the United States;

Whereas approximately 50 percent of the women in the United States diagnosed with ovarian cancer die as a result of the cancer within 5 years;

Whereas ovarian cancer is readily treatable when it is detected in the beginning stages before it has spread beyond the ovaries, but the vast majority of cases are not diagnosed until the advanced stages when the cancer has spread beyond the ovaries;

Whereas in cases where ovarian cancer is detected in the beginning stages, more than 90 percent of women survive longer than 5 years;

Whereas only 25 percent of ovarian cancer cases in the United States are diagnosed in the beginning stages;

Whereas in cases where ovarian cancer is diagnosed in the advanced stages, the chance of 5-year survival is only about 25 percent; and

Whereas ovarian cancer may be difficult to diagnose because symptoms are easily confused with other diseases and because there is no reliable, easy-to-administer screening tool: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
4 ices, acting through the Director of the National In-
5 stitutes of Health—

6 (A) should conduct or support research on
7 the effectiveness of the medical screening tech-
8 nique of using proteomic patterns in blood
9 serum to identify ovarian cancer, including the

1 effectiveness of using the technique in combina-
2 tion with other screening methods for ovarian
3 cancer; and

4 (B) should continue to conduct or support
5 other promising ovarian cancer research that
6 may lead to breakthroughs in screening tech-
7 niques;

8 (2) the Secretary should submit to the Congress
9 a report on the research described in paragraph
10 (1)(A), including an analysis of the effectiveness of
11 the medical screening technique for identifying ovar-
12 ian cancer; and

13 (3) if the research demonstrates that the med-
14 ical screening technique is effective for identifying
15 ovarian cancer, Federal health care programs and
16 group and individual health plans should cover the
17 technique.

Passed the House of Representatives July 22, 2002.

Attest:

Clerk.